

### Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1-10 (Cancelled)

11. (Currently Amended) A substrate holding apparatus comprising:  
a substrate holding section for supporting a substrate with ~~its~~ a front surface of the  
substrate facing downward; and  
an attraction head provided with an attraction seal for attracting and holding the substrate  
supported by the substrate holding section while sealing a peripheral portion of ~~the~~ a back  
surface of the substrate in a ring;  
wherein the substrate holding section ~~is provided with~~ includes a plurality of pressing  
mechanisms; disposed at locations along ~~the~~ a circumferential direction of the substrate holding  
section, for contacting the pressing mechanisms being configured to contact a peripheral portion  
of the front surface of the substrate supported by the substrate holding section and pressing to  
press the substrate against the attraction head, each of the pressing mechanisms including a  
movable claw arranged so that, as the substrate holding section moves relatively and closer to the  
attraction head, the moving claw comes into contact with the peripheral portion of the front  
surface of the substrate and presses the substrate against the attraction head; and  
wherein the movable claw is supported by a pivot shaft so as to be vertically pivotable  
and disposed along the diametrical direction of the substrate holding section, the movable claw  
being biased downwardly by an elastic body on the outer side of the pivot shaft, and being  
arranged to make contact with a peripheral portion of the front surface of the substrate on an  
inner side of the pivot shaft.

Claims 12 and 13 (Cancelled)

14. (Currently Amended) The substrate holding apparatus according to claim ~~13~~ 11,  
wherein the elastic body ~~is comprised of~~ comprises a generally truncated conical rubber member.

Claims 15-23 (Cancelled)